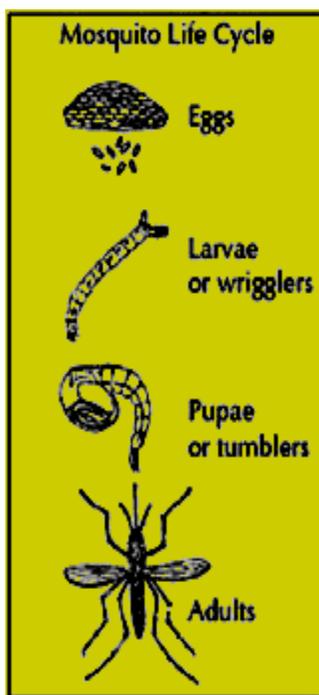# Mosquitoes Can Carry Disease

**Mosquitoes can take up to two weeks to develop
from egg to adult. Stop mosquito breeding grounds by eliminating standing water.
No standing water means no mosquitoes.**

Mosquito Life Cycle

Egg:
Needs water to hatch: females lay up to 450 eggs at one time, usually in swamps or standing water in gutters and old tires.

Larva:
Lives in water called "wigglers"; sheds skin four times in 4 to 10 days; eats one-celled organisms.

Pupa:
Can move away from water surface by flipping tail; grows into adult in two to four days.

Adult:
Pupa's skin splits, adults struggle free, females live 30 days more, feed on blood; males live 7 to 10 days, feed on plant juices.

Mosquito-borne Illness: West Nile Virus:

No symptoms, mild flu-like symptoms or in rare cases meningitis.

- **Dispose of cans, bottles and plastic containers. Store recyclable items in covered trashcans or sealed bags.**
- **Discard old tires and drill drainage holes in tires used for playground equipment.**
- **Clean roof gutters and down-spout screens regularly. Eliminate standing water on flat roofs.**
- **Turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows and canoes.**
- **Do not leave garbage can lids upside down. Do not allow water to collect in the bottom of garbage cans and be sure to remove all trash that can collect water, such as soda cans and other containers.**
- **Flush bird baths and the bottom of potted plant holder trays twice a week.**
- **Adjust tarps over grills, firewood piles, boats and swimming pools.**
- **Re-grade drainage areas and clean out debris in ditches to eliminate standing water in low spots.**
- **Clean and chlorinate swimming pools. Store pet food and water bowls indoors when not in use.**
- **Fix dripping water faucets outside and eliminate puddles from air conditioners.**

Aerate garden ponds and/or add "mosquito dunks" found at hardware stores.

Government of the
District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor

**For more information
Contact the Citywide
Call Center**

311

**DOH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Promote. Prevent. Protect.**

Or visit the DOH Website: www.doh.dc.gov

Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Harvard School of Public Health, American Mosquito Control Association